

News

U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
PO Box 193766
San Francisco, Calif. 94119-3766



CONTACT:

Stanley P. Stephenson (415) 975-4373
Nancy A. Treadwell (415) 975-4403
Internet address: <http://stats.bls.gov/ro9news.htm>
Fax-On-Demand (415) 975-4567 Code: #9120

BLS 01-57
FOR RELEASE:
Thursday, August 16, 2001

ANCHORAGE CONSUMER PRICES UP 1.6 PERCENT IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2001—2.9 PERCENT ABOVE A YEAR AGO

Consumer prices in the Anchorage metropolitan area advanced 1.6 percent in the first half of 2001 according to the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Stanley P. Stephenson said compared to the same period a year ago, prices increased 2.9 percent. All but one of the eight expenditure categories rose during the past six months. Increases in housing and, to a less extent, food and beverages prices dominated the advance in the overall index. The area's Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) advanced to 154.4 (1982-84=100) during the first half of 2001. This means a market basket of goods and services that cost \$100.00 in 1982-84 would have cost \$154.40 during the past six months. Local area CPI data are not seasonally adjusted.

The housing index rose 2.5 percent during the first half of 2001. In the same period, the shelter component of housing advanced 1.5 percent and household furnishings and operations increased 4.9 percent. Fuels and utilities rose 9.4 percent, largely the result of a 20.6 percent jump in utility natural gas service prices. The overall housing category increased 2.9 percent between the first half of 2000 and the first half of 2001. Also, compared to a year ago, shelter advanced 1.9 percent, fuels and utilities increased 9.2 percent and household furnishings and operations rose 3.8 percent.

The index for food and beverages rose 1.9 percent in the first half of 2001. Grocery prices, represented by the food at home index, advanced 1.8 percent in the same period and were up 4.3 percent from a year ago. Since the second half of 2000, the cost of dining out increased 0.7 percent while prices paid for alcoholic beverages rose 3.5 percent. Over the last year, these categories advanced 3.1 and 4.2 percent, respectively. For the past 12 months, the food and beverages' index rose 3.7 percent.

The medical care index increased 2.1 percent during the first half of 2001 and was 4.1 percent higher than a year ago.

The miscellaneous other goods and services index advanced 1.1 percent in the past six months and 2.3 percent over the year.

Apparel prices increased 1.5 percent in the last six months and showed an over-the-year increase of 9.9 percent. This was the largest annual increase of all major expenditure categories this period and the greatest annual increase for apparel since 1981.

The transportation index increased 0.4 percent in the first half of 2001, and measured 2.8 percent higher than last year's level. Private transportation costs were 0.9 percent higher over the latest six-month period and up 4.4 percent over the year. Gasoline prices advanced 0.9 percent during the past six months and consumers paid 11.2 percent more for gasoline than they did a year ago.

Prices for recreation inched up 0.2 percent in the past six months and showed a slight 0.1 percent gain over the year.

The education and communication index declined 0.3 percent during the first half of 2001 and was down 1.2 percent from a year ago.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Anchorage, AK (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2001 from-	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000
Expenditure category					
All items	150.0	151.9	154.4	2.9	1.6
All items (October 1967=100)	400.2	405.5	412.1	-	-
Food and beverages	150.4	153.1	156.0	3.7	1.9
Food	150.9	153.7	156.3	3.6	1.7
Food at home	154.8	158.6	161.5	4.3	1.8
Food away from home	143.7	147.1	148.2	3.1	0.7
Alcoholic beverages	145.5	146.5	151.6	4.2	3.5
Housing	133.9	134.4	137.8	2.9	2.5
Shelter	137.1	137.6	139.7	1.9	1.5
Rent of primary residence	125.7	126.7	128.6	2.3	1.5
Owners' equivalent rent of primary residence (1)	137.4	138.6	140.6	2.3	1.4
Fuels and utilities	143.9	143.7	157.2	9.2	9.4
Fuels	140.0	139.9	157.6	12.6	12.7
Gas (piped) and electricity	155.7	155.3	175.2	12.5	12.8
Electricity	155.4	155.0	166.7	7.3	7.5
Utility natural gas service	153.7	153.4	185.0	20.4	20.6
Household furnishings and operations	108.5	107.3	112.6	3.8	4.9
Apparel	119.5	129.4	131.3	9.9	1.5
Transportation	148.7	152.3	152.9	2.8	0.4
Private transportation	143.9	148.9	150.3	4.4	0.9
Motor fuel	125.2	137.9	139.1	11.1	0.9
Gasoline (all types)	125.1	137.8	139.1	11.2	0.9
Gasoline, unleaded regular (2).....	120.8	133.3	134.5	11.3	0.9
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade (2) (3).....	119.7	132.5	134.0	11.9	1.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium (2).....	131.7	143.8	145.0	10.1	0.8
Medical care	269.5	274.7	280.5	4.1	2.1
Recreation (4).....	105.6	105.5	105.7	0.1	0.2
Education and communication (4).....	95.2	94.4	94.1	-1.2	-0.3
Other goods and services	211.5	214.0	216.4	2.3	1.1

See footnotes at end of table.

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes for semiannual averages and percent changes for selected periods

Anchorage, AK (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) (Continued)

Item and Group	Semiannual average indexes			Percent change to 1st half 2001 from-	
	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000	1st half 2001	1st half 2000	2nd half 2000
Commodity and service group					
All items	150.0	151.9	154.4	2.9	1.6
Commodities	140.5	143.7	145.7	3.7	1.4
Commodities less food and beverages	134.6	138.1	139.6	3.7	1.1
Nondurables less food and beverages	137.9	146.1	147.5	7.0	1.0
Durables	131.9	129.9	131.5	-0.3	1.2
Services	157.9	159.0	161.9	2.5	1.8
Special aggregate indexes					
All items less medical care	145.0	146.8	149.2	2.9	1.6
All items less shelter	154.8	157.4	160.1	3.4	1.7
Commodities less food	135.4	138.8	140.4	3.7	1.2
Nondurables	144.5	149.9	152.0	5.2	1.4
Nondurables less food	139.0	146.6	148.4	6.8	1.2
Services less rent of shelter (1)	190.4	191.8	195.9	2.9	2.1
Services less medical care services	149.7	150.5	153.2	2.3	1.8
Energy	127.7	134.2	142.9	11.9	6.5
All items less energy	152.0	153.6	155.7	2.4	1.4
All items less food and energy	152.1	153.5	155.5	2.2	1.3

1 Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

2 Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

3 Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

4 Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.